

FREDERICK COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING MINUTES
FREDERICK SENIOR CENTER
December 14, 2009

DOA MEMBERS	DOA STAFF	EXCUSED	UNEXCUSED	GUESTS
Suzan M. Adams	Susan M. Ramsburg Recording Sec	Cristina Donahue-Taylor		Jim Judd
William P. Allen, PhD	Carolyn True	Harold A. Ehart, Jr., Chair		
Earl S. Beck, PhD		David Gray, Comm		
Rae Ann Butler		Margaret Nusbaum		
Millard Haines		Stephen Wilhide		
Lloyd Hoover				
Ona M. John Kile				
Louise Lynch				
Burt Shawver				
Virginia Skelley				
Robert Wannemacher				

- I. Call to Order – Louise Lynch, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.**

II. Welcome & Introductions – – Louise Lynch welcomed all attendees. She will be chairing this meeting in Hal's absence. Earl introduced James Judd; a guest attending today's meeting. He was recently interviewed by the Nominating Committee for addition to this Commission.

III. Approval of Minutes – - The minutes of the November 9, 2009 meeting were approved. All were in favor.

IV. Commissioner's Report – Commissioner Gray was not available today to give a report.

Alderman's Report – A new Alderman will be appointed due to recent election results. It was suggested that Carol Krimm would make an excellent addition to this Commission. John Kile knows her personally and will approach her with the suggestion.

V. United Seniors of Maryland, Virginia Skelley – The December newsletter was distributed at today's meeting. Information on how to obtain an application for individual membership is included in the newsletter. An individual membership costs \$10/year. The next meeting will be on January 4th and include some interesting guest speakers. Ginny will be driving to that meeting if anyone is interested and would like to go along with her.

The Rally will be held on January 19, 2010 and the snow date is January 21, 2010. The DoA van will be available for transportation. The van will hold 14 people. The cost per person for a full van will be \$5.00. If the van is not full, the cost would increase but a minimum of seven people is required. Everyone will be responsible for obtaining their own Rally ticket. The van will leave from the Senior Center at 7:00am. A signup sheet available at today's meeting for members to register.

Nominations Committee, Earl Beck – The Nominating Committee recently interviewed potential candidates for the four open positions on this Commission. They hope to have three of the positions filled. They will meet again in January.

VI. Next Steps for the Coming Year – There was much discussion on what the next steps should be for this Commission. One suggestion is to have a set of exit questions for members who are leaving this Commission on what they think has been accomplished during their tenure. The Commission should continue to work with other local senior organizations and commit to making a difference in the lives of local seniors.

One of the biggest obstacles to helping seniors is finding the seniors who need the help. Most seniors do not seek services or possibly do not know what services are available. There are many services available to them, but the problem is making the services known to the seniors. Church groups and local physician offices would be good points of contact in reaching out to seniors. Communication is one of the most serious obstacles we have in front of us. Seniors do not like to accept or admit the loss of independence. Is there any way to do an informal needs assessment? There has to be a way to find out who the seniors are that need the services provided by various agencies. The Commission may need to revisit the idea of small town hall meetings for senior issues. The Commission may need to focus on one issue of great importance to most seniors in order to convince them to attend a meeting. Ideas for a plan of action will be put on the agenda for January's meeting.

VII. Director's Report, Carolyn True— Carolyn thanked Pete Allen, Sue Adams, and Hal Ehart for their time, effort, and dedication to the CoA and DoA.

Carolyn distributed the statistical report for the DoA for November, 2009. This report gives a breakdown of what each of the programs has accomplished for the month.

The staff is also currently working on the 2011 department budget. There is a difference from previous years in the information that is being requested by the finance office. Division Directors will be presenting information to the BoCC in mid January, 2010. These meetings will be closed to the public.

Medicare D open enrollment period starts on November 16th and ends December 30th. Appointments are being scheduled to help seniors recognize their prescription options. There is a mix of volunteers and staff taking appointments. There seems to be a reduction in the number of seniors taking advantage of this service. There are a number of plans which are subject to change every year.

There was a Diabetes Education program offered at several of the senior centers which was well attended. New seniors attended this program that were not current clients and were unaware of our other services. They were made aware of this education program via cable programming and word of mouth.

AARP had made a donation of discretionary funds to the DoA. These funds were used for a variety of programs.

The Wii bowling team at the Emmitsburg Senior Center was very successful in a national tournament. The team, In Our Prime, made

12/14/2009

the local news by competing and obtaining second place in this tournament. This activity has been noted to improve balance and hand-eye coordination.

VIII. Announcements - The Commission is willing to support the DoA in any way possible during this time of financial constraint.

Louise Lynch stated the 501(c)(3) team will be meeting with an accountant next Monday to get assistance completing various financial forms. They are in the final stages of paperwork for this process. The application fee is \$750.

FCC in alliance with Frederick Memorial Healthcare will be offering a short course called *Personal Care Skill for the Family Caregivers*. It is two - 4 hours sessions being offered at FMH. The cost is \$21 for adults sixty and older and \$39 for adults under the age of 60. Information for this course will be included in the discharge packets for patients leaving the hospital. Please feel free to contact Sue Adams for any information on FCC courses in the future.

Louise, on behalf of the Commission, thanked Sue and Pete for all their hard work and associations to other agencies for this Commission.

IX. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Ramsburg,
Recording Secretary

Upcoming Dates:

January 11, 2010 - Commission on Aging, 1 pm at the Frederick Senior Center, Frederick, MD 21702

January 19, 2010 – USM Rally, Annapolis, MD; Snow Date January 21, 2010